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NEWS

Key boards to finalize positions ahead of Winchester Town Meeting

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

April 14, 2025 . 10:47 AM — 3 min read

Winchester is readying for Spring Town Meeting, which is scheduled to begin April 28, as key boards in the community finalize their positions on more than 50 warrant articles on the agenda. FILE PHOTO

Multiple Winchester boards and committees will hold critical pu
meetings ahead of the April 28 Spring Town Meeting, offering res

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opportunities to weigh in on 56 warrant articles ranging from zoning changes to budget appropriations.

Select Board's meeting

The Select Board plans to finalize its positions on warrant articles at its April 14 meeting in the Select Board Room at Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St.

Town Counsel Jason Talerman is expected to brief the board on legal considerations related to 18 bylaw amendments submitted by the Committee on Government Regulations.

These pre-Town Meeting hearings play a vital role in Winchester's democratic process, ensuring transparency and providing essential forums for public feedback before articles reach Town Meeting floor.

The Select Board's recommendations on warrant articles carry particular importance as they often present many of the articles at Town Meeting. Their views, along with those of the Finance Committee, help guide Town Meeting members in understanding the implications of each proposal.

Planning Board hearing

The Planning Board will meet remotely April 15 at 7 p.m. to hold a public hearing on a citizen petition to rezone part of The Ledges Condominium from Planned Residential District to Residential District A.

The board may also discuss a special permit amendment for 10 Converse Place and provide updates on its own articles.

The rezoning petition represents one of the more contentious issues before Town Meeting this spring, with neighbors expressing con about potential development impacts in the area known as "The Ledges."

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Residents can view meeting details and register for the Zoom session at https://bit.ly/3YtAQ0I.

Government Regulations Committee meeting

On April 16 at 6:30 p.m., the Committee on Government Regulations will meet in the Mystic Valley Room at Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St.

The committee will vote on recommending two citizen petition articles that seek bylaw changes and finalize its presentation of the town's Decennial Bylaw Review Report.

The committee has authored 18 articles on this spring's warrant, most stemming from their comprehensive decennial review of town bylaws. Many propose technical corrections, while others seek substantive changes to align Winchester's governance with current practices.

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Finance Committee hearing

The Finance Committee scheduled a hybrid public hearing for April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Waterfield Room at Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St.

The committee will take comments on the fiscal year 2026 town budget and may vote on several financial articles, including the operating budget, stabilization fund appropriations and the Muraco Culvert Flood Mitigation Project.

The committee's recommendations carry significant weight with Town Meeting members, as they represent the culmination of months review work.

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Following this hearing, the Finance Committee will prepare its formal recommendations on financial warrant articles that will be distributed to Town Meeting members before the April 28 session. These recommendations become part of the official documentation that guides how Town Meeting votes on appropriations.

The FY26 budget includes $142.6 million in total appropriations, a 3.8% increase over current year spending. Key areas of increase include school department costs, employee benefits and several infrastructure investments.

Town Manager's hearing

As a final review opportunity before Town Meeting, the town manager will hold a remote public hearing April 24 at 6:30 p.m. covering warrant articles not previously addressed in other hearings.

This session fulfills requirements in Winchester's bylaws that mandate public information sessions for any articles not previously subject to a public hearing.

The Town Manager's hearing addresses a range of topics, including budgetary items, bylaw amendments, zoning changes, capital projects and policy initiatives.

This process aims to ensure transparency and encourages public participation, helping Town Meeting members prepare to make informed decisions on behalf of the community.

Details can be found at https://bit.ly/3Y0UfWO.

Town Meeting session

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Spring Town Meeting, Winchester's legislative body comprising 192 elected Town Meeting members, will convene April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at Winchester High School auditorium, 80 Skillings Road. Additional sessions are scheduled for May 1, 5 and 8 if needed to complete all business.

Each warrant article will be presented by either an assigned board member or the sponsoring petitioner, followed by debate and voting.

Warrant articles serve as the agenda items for Town Meeting, requiring formal votes by the legislative body to enact new bylaws, approve budgets or authorize other town actions. Residents can review the full warrant and learn more about Town Meeting at https://bit.ly/4jtDATV.

While only elected Town Meeting members may vote during the actual Town Meeting sessions, public input at preliminary hearings helps shape the final presentation and recommendation for each article.

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Wi presents 'Syldason: You Are

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stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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